Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 14692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, EEWT, UR (DOWNEY, ARTHUR T)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO USSR OF DAS OF COMMERCE FOR EAST-WEST TRADE, ARTHUR DOWNEY, (OCTOBER 1-11, 1976)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14147; (B) USDOC 15117; (C) HEISS-FARRAND TELCON, SEPT 13

1. COMATT MET WITH MELNIKOV AT MFT SEPT 14 AND SPOKE WITH HIM AGAIN OVER LUNCH SEPT 16 RE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOWNEY VISIT. ACCORDING TO MELNIKOV, MINISTRY WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO MAKE DOWNEY'S VISIT USEFUL, INCLUDING ARRANGING VISITS TO AS MANY PLANTS REQUESTED IN NOVOSIBIRSK AREA AS POSSIBLE. MFT PROTOCOL SECTION NOW WORKING ON ITINEARY ALONG LINES HEISS AND FARRAND DISCUSSED OVER TELEPHONE SEPT 13. MELNKOV SAID THAT MINISTRY WILL ADVISE US AS SOON AS ITINERARY FIRM.

2. IN MEANTIME, WE ARE PLANNING RECEPTION IN DOWNEY'S HONOR WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED BY SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS, AND RESIDENT U.S. BUSINESSMEN ON MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4 (1800-2000). INVITATIONS NOW BEING PRINTED. THUS, UNLESS SOVIETS SUGGEST A LUNCHEON THERE WILL BE NO OTHER FUNCTIONS ON THAT DAY. RE BUDGET FOR RECEPTION, GUEST LIST WILL NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONS WHICH, AT DOLLARS FIVE PER HEAD, WILL RUN TO TOTAL COST OF DOLLARS FOUR HUNDRED. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING USDOC BUDGET AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS SUM WHEN SCHEDULE FIRM.

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3. MFT IS ALSO TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH DEPUTY MINISTER

MANZHULO AND AT STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EITHER ON OCT 4, OR ON OCT 11, WHEN DOWNEY RETURN FROM NOVOSIBIRSK. WE ASSUME DAS WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO CONDUCTING A BRIEFING FOR U.S. RESIDENT (AND VISITING) BUSINESSMEN AT COMMERCIAL OFFICE AT AROUND 1500 DURING AFTERNOON OF OCT 11.

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